



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 31.3.2014
C(2014) 2069 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 31.3.2014

**establishing the 2014 Work Programme for financial assistance in the field of
Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) - Telecommunications sector for the period 2014-
2020**

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 31.3.2014

establishing the 2014 Work Programme for financial assistance in the field of Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) - Telecommunications sector for the period 2014- 2020

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility¹ (hereinafter referred to as "CEF Regulation"), and in particular Article 17 thereof,

Having regard to the Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council (EU, EURATOM) No 966/2012 of 25 October 2012 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Union (hereinafter referred to as "Financial Regulation"), and in particular Article 84 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In accordance with Article 84 of the Financial Regulation and Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU) n° 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union² (hereinafter referred to as "Rules of Application"), the commitment of expenditure from the Union budget shall be preceded by a financing decision setting out the essential elements of the action involving expenditure and adopted by the institution or the authorities to which powers have been delegated by the institution.
- (2) In accordance with Article 17 of the CEF Regulation and Article 128 of the Financial Regulation, a work programme has to be adopted and published in relation to financial assistance.
- (3) Regulation (EU) No 259/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 on guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks and repealing Decision No 1336/97/EC³ (hereinafter referred to as "CEF Telecommunications Guidelines"), lays down guidelines for the timely deployment and interoperability of projects of common interest in the field of the trans-European networks in the area of telecommunications infrastructure.

¹ OJ L 348, 20.12.2013, p. 129.

² OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1

³ OJ L 86, 21.03.2014, p. 14

- (4) Based on the objectives set out in Articles 3 and 4(4) of the CEF Regulation, and more specifically the objectives set for the telecommunications sector in the CEF Telecommunications Guidelines, the work programme for financial assistance in the field of Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) - Telecommunications sector for 2014 sets out general objectives, expected results, eligibility criteria, essential selection and award criteria, specific objectives and priorities for the different programme components, a schedule for calls for proposals and the indicative amounts available under the respective calls.
- (5) The present financing decision may also cover the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Articles 92 of the Financial Regulation and 111 (4) of the Rules of Application.
- (6) It is appropriate to define the terms 'substantial change' within the meaning of Article 94(4) of the Rules of Application for the application of this decision.
- (7) In accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 25 of the CEF Regulation, the Connecting Europe Facility Committee was consulted and delivered a favourable opinion on the annual work programme for 2014.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The annexed annual work programme for financial aid to be allocated in 2014 in the field of the Connecting Europe Facility - telecommunications sector is hereby adopted.

It constitutes a financing decision in the meaning of Article 84 of the Financial Regulation.

Article 2

The total amount covered by this Decision is up to EUR 74 080 789.

This Decision serves as a financing decision for 2014 for the following budget lines⁴:

09 03 01 Accelerating the deployment of broadband network: EUR 6 000 000

09 03 03 Promoting the interconnection and interoperability of national services of common interest and contributing to a safe, inclusive and positive online environment: EUR 68 080 789⁵

These appropriations may also cover interest due for late payment.

⁴ Internal Commission transfers from budget line 09 03 01 and budget line 09 03 02 (which concerns the Broadband Financial Instruments, currently excluded from this decision pending the completion of the ex-ante assessment) towards budget line 09 03 03 will be processed in the coming weeks.

⁵ EUR 165 789 will be transferred from the budget line 09 03 51 01, RO credits allocated to the Safer Internet Programme, received in 2013. Safer Internet was the predecessor programme of CEF.

Article 3

Cumulated changes to the allocations to the specific actions, under the budget heading 0903 Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) – Telecommunications networks, not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution authorised by this Decision are not considered to be substantial provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objective of the work programme.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and of proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 31.3.2014

For the Commission
Neelie KROES
Vice-President